

Earth First! Action Update

Issue 65 January 2000

"Different Millennium, Same Shit." - Pavlov

TERRORISM AND THE DIY ACTIVIST

A new Prevention of Terrorism Bill is making its way through Parliament, and looks set to become law in Autumn. It extends the laws which have been misused against the Northern Irish people to the rest of the UK population, with some added vagueness for good measure.

A key problem for activists is the under-definition of terrorism. The new definition is "the use of serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence to intimidate or coerce the Government, the public or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends." Terrorism will also mean the use or threat of using action which creates a risk to the health and safety of people. In the light of the media hysteria about ALF and RTS, this means virtually any activist is at risk of being classed a terrorist some of the time. Note also police comments about feeling threatened in protest or eviction situations.

What does 'serious' mean? Whatever they want it to mean. And 'Violence to property' - what, like breaking animal snares or digging up GM plants? GM crop-pullers will be classed the same as the Soho nail bomber.

There are other worrying elements in the bill. People supporting struggles abroad (like the Zapatistas or the Kurdish resistance in Turkey) will be included. There is a danger that refugees from oppressive regimes will become a legitimate target of the police merely because they support the overthrow of that regime.



The main points for activists to note about the Bill, are the proscription of organisations, the power within 'cordoned areas' and the new powers of stop and search and detention.

Prescribed Organisations

Membership of a proscribed organisation can carry a 10 year sentence, support for such an organisation also being an offence. An organisation can be almost anything, however informal or small. Support could mean something as ordinary as wearing an ALF T-shirt!

Cordoned Areas

Any policeman can declare any area cordoned if it's deemed 'expedient'. Anyone who doesn't leave the area is open to a 3 month prison term. (Adjacent premises are included in the cordoned area. Note also tents and vehicles are defined as premises.)

New Powers of Stop, Search and Detain

Anyone can be stopped and searched on the grounds of 'reasonable suspicion' of involvement in terrorist activity (see above.) Such a person can be held for up to 48 hours without anyone being told, including solicitors. The period can be extended to 7 days, following a hearing in the detainee's absence.

The Monthly Round up of
Ecological, and Other, Direct
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

Sympathy with terrorism is also vaguely defined. Knowing about things, using other people's property, handling money and so on, are all offences. The wording of the Bill is ambiguous and open to misuse through interpretation. The thinking behind the Bill is clear enough. It seeks to extend the state's powers by redefining as much activity as possible as 'terrorism', thus making everything from fluffy protest to full-on direct action vulnerable.

A number of public meetings and demo's will be happening throughout the country in the next few months. Contact: your local activist group, or Protest Forum, Flat 7, 10a Airlie Gardens, London, WA8 7AL. 0171 727 0590. www.blagged.freesevice.co.uk/terrorbill/index.html

MayDay 2000: conference

An energetic, super sexy, post J18/Seattle, ideas generating gathering for anti-capitalist, anti-state visionaries(!). Over 22 cities plan to take part in May-Day 2000 international weekend of party and protest against capitalism. (April 28th-May 1st). What would you like to see at the London Conference? Class struggle. Art. Radical History. Direct Action. Race. The Planet. Sexuality. Capitalism. Women...Bring ideas to the Planning Conference (10.30am onwards), evening entertainment- Saturday 12th February, Pullens Centre, 184 Crampton St, London. (Nr Elephant & Castle). 0208 3745027 www.freesepeech.org/

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting on a digger are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information

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News in Brief

◆ An American conglomerate is negotiating to purchase rights to over 700 square km around Eppawala in Sri Lanka. Their plan for this home to thousands of villages, half a million rural Sri Lankans, pristine forest, countless endangered species, and extensive 2000-year-old archaeological monuments? They want to turn it into a gigantic phosphate strip mine.

◆ Genetically modified food giant, Monsanto, has banned GM food from its own staff cafeteria at the company's headquarters at High Wycombe, Bucks. A company spokeswoman confirmed that Granada Food Services, which provides catering, had stopped serving food containing GM soya and GM maize after customers expressed concern. Monsanto denied it was an embarrassment to have GM banned at the head office of a firm manufacturing GM crops.

◆ The Gartochar residents in Glasgow held 2 successful demos/ actions on 14 and 18 December - on 14th they occupied the Shettleston police station for 10 hours! - ring the residents on 07979 836223 for details.

◆ McDonalds have struck a deal with the 'TeliTubbies' to market McShit in the states with a 'TeliTubbies Hugs' campaign. Sell-out!

◆ On 25th Jan, the trial began in Lancaster for the women who disabled the testing equipment and painted slogans on a Trident submarine when it was in Barrow in Jan/Feb last year. It is continuing as we go to press, with lots of local support work and even a piece of land, squatted by women next to the court building! Contact the Friends Meeting House (tel Adrian 01524 62971) or the camp mobile 07881 970 518

◆ The Ramblers' Association has won its case over the footpath that runs across the estate of millionaire anti-semitic Nicholas Van Hoogstraten. The RA proved the 100-year-old footpath crossing the estate had been blocked by various obstructions, rendering it impassable for over a decade. The bad guys were fined £1,600 for two counts of blocking the footpath illegally, and ordered to pay costs of £3,500

◆ Witnesses are required who were outside Euston station during the evening of 30th November, (N30) and were detained against their will, assaulted, or saw any police abuse. Contact: N30 c/o Gareth Crossman, 21 Tabard St, London, SE1 Also, anyone who saw a male, orange top, black pants, gift, assaulted 7-7.15 pm - by the police. Call 0850 751575 or contact RTS or GEN

◆ A campaign to get all McDonald's ads banned by the Independent Television Commission is being launched. This is on the grounds that the High Court judgment that McDonald's 'exploit children' and that their food has been promoted as 'nutritious' when in fact it is linked to heart disease. Contact McLibel

Pyro-Pixies

The Earth Liberation Front (E.L.F.)

has claimed credit for a fire on December 25th, which destroyed Boise Cascade's regional headquarters in Monmouth, Oregon. Boise Cascade has been active in deforestation practices in the Northwest (USA) A communique sent by the E.L.F. stated. "Early Christmas morning elves left coal in Boise Cascade's stocking. Four buckets of diesel gas with kitchen timer delay destroyed their regional headquarters...Let this be a lesson to all greedy multinational corporations who don't respect ecosystems. The elves are watching."

The Elves WERE watching

Four days later, on December 31, the E.L.F. claimed responsibility for property damage estimated at \$400,000 at Michigan State University. A communiqué stated that their target, a project funded by Monsanto and USAID, "was designed to not only pursue research concerning genetically engineered sweet potatoes, corn and other crop vegetables, but to lobby developing countries to abandon their current agricultural practices and to rely on genetically engineered plants and thus corporations like Monsanto."

GORSE WOOD ALERT

Eviction Imminent at Gorse Wood road protest camp - Likely to be week of Mon 7th Feb. The 6 lane 'bypass' is planned as an outer London orbital and M25 relief road. The £30 million road is mysteriously linked to the building of an incinerator, private golf course and housing development. Beautiful woodland, wickered trees with loads of scope for tree-dwellers. Awesome tunnels to break all records. Up-for-it activists, equipment, climbers, tarps, people, bedding, candles, people needed NOW. They also request solidarity actions on Laing Ltd, the road-builders.

Directions: by train, London to Wickford, turn right outside station, down to the high street, left at roundabout by the garage and continue 2 miles left to Rettendon & Chelmsford to near the top of the hill. Then left to All Saints Parish Church, through churchyard, over stile, across field to ward the wood. By bus, Chelmsford to Southend, get off at Gt Rettendon school, head for church.

Gen.enquiries 02082994244; Site no: 07957915977; local no: 0796866230

This Year's Thing?

The government is embarking on a project to increase the number of waste incinerators in the UK from 10 to 167. Handbook available from Friends of the Earth, or contact Communities Against Toxins, 0151 3395473, ralph@tcpublications.freemove.co.uk

Tyred of incineration

White-suited Newcastle activists died spectacularly in front of the Civic Centre as a symbolic column of tyres belched coloured smoke. The press stunt drew attention to the proposed new contract by Newcastle's council to increase tenfold the amount of waste disposed of at the city's Byker Incinerator. At a public meeting the following day, 200 people voted unanimously in favour of a public inquiry into the incinerator. Experts and council officials were heckled mercilessly by people who live within a square mile of the plant, and who suffer a much higher incidence of toxin-related diseases. If you live near an incinerator, or have any info/experiences to share contact Campaign Against Incineration of Refuse, at the Action Update PO box.

Smash Genetix Trial

22 defendants appeared at Lincoln Magistrates Court on 19th January for an expected 2 week trial relating to the 'Smash Genetix' action in Spital-in-the-Street, Lincs, last July. The Defendants (originally facing conspiracy to commit criminal damage charges) were expecting to face charges of Aggravated Trespass and Section 4a Public Order Act, with drivers and passengers of the vehicles facing additional charges of Criminal damage.

The defendants were offered a plea bargain of having all other charges dropped if they accepted the charge of Section 5 Public Order Act (disorderly behaviour). Defendants pressed for bind-overs instead and a compromise was made with 12 defendants selflessly pleading guilty to Disorderly behaviour in order to let the other 9 accept bind-overs for 1 year. 1 defendant's case was dropped due to mitigating circumstances.

There are over £1000 costs to pay, donations payable to 'Smash Genetic Engineering Defence Fund', send to Leeds EF1

Robert Thaxton

Rob Thaxton is a prisoner who recently received a sentence of seven years and four months for his part in the riot that took place on June 18th in Eugene, USA. Rob is an active anarchist and over the years has been involved with various Earth First! groups, the magazines 'Anarchy- A Journal of Desire Armed' and 'Alternative Press Review.' Police and persecutors in Eugene wanted a scapegoat for June 18th. Rob was not a local. The authorities believed he was a transient. Add to this that Rob is a Chicano, and that one of his arresting officers had been heard making threats against Chicanos, and Rob begins to look like the perfect scapegoat. After being beaten to the ground, his nose broken, his eye blackened, his brain concussed, he found himself facing charges of rioting, first- degree assault and second degree assault, for which he has now been sentenced.

As a benefit for his defence campaign, a cool little 18 page A5 pamphlet entitled 'Rob the Rich' has been produced. It includes a piece of personal writing about Rob, the J18 riot and the movement which he is a part of, written by a close friend of his, as well as some rants and articles by Rob himself.

The Brighton based Wildlife Collective have reprinted this pamphlet and copied are available for £1 (well hidden cash only) from: Wildlife Collective, PO Box 3249, Brighton, BN1 4SN, UK. All money after printing costs will go straight to help with Rob's defence. Donations directly to Rob's legal defence fund (cheques payable to John Zerzan) can be sent to: Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440, USA. You can write to Rob at Robert Lee Thaxton #12112716, O.S.P., 2605 Salem Street, Salem, OR 97310, USA. All mail must have a return address, and letters should be written in ordinary ball point pen (no felt tips etc can be used). Photocopied collages etc are allowed and v. welcome.

Greg Minns

Greg Minns is an activist from the North East who has been involved in left-wing politics since his teens. He has been actively interested in prisoner support and miscarriages of justice.

In 1998 he was arrested for Breach of the Peace. After being assaulted at a police station, denied access to a solicitor and not informed of his rights, he was sectioned and taken to Winterton Hospital in Sedgefield (Blair's Constituency.) He had sleep deprivation treatment which left him confused and disorientated.

The justification for this treatment was that he was a 'paranoid schizophrenic' who had had a 'psychotic episode', although MRI and CT scans consistently showed no evidence of mental dysfunction. Staff admitted he showed none of the usual signs of a person with acute mental problems.

Greg was transferred to the Pierremont Unit of Darlington Memorial Hospital on Winterton's closure. At both institutions he saw evidence of sexual abuse of patients by staff. Greg is now at a hostel called Millerbank, under 24 hour supervision. He has had his belongings taken from him and his privileges denied. Greg Minns has clearly been arrested and detained because of his beliefs and activities, and his medical diagnosis and treatment are a further attempt to discredit or silence him. Contact: Gregg himself at Millerbank, 27 Carlton Rd, Burnley Lancs. BB11 4JE. His doctor Dr A. Launer at Lamont Clinic Burley General Hospital Casterton Ave, Burnley BB10 2PQ. The Mental Health Review Tribunal 249 St. Mary's Road, Garston, Liverpool L19 0NF.

Cases like this show yet another way in which activists can be silenced or made inactive by the state. Radical views are classified as irrational and the activist is diagnosed as acutely mentally ill. 'Treatment' is used to soften the victim and incarceration in mental hospital is a handy alternative to prison. Another activist has told us of a similar experience. Objection to his treatment is seen as a 'symptom' of his illness - again paranoid schizophrenia. As with Greg, the authorities don't even need to take him to court... Under proposed new legislation, anyone suffering from a 'personality disorder' - a wider, even more vague term than mental illness - can be detained indefinitely. Activists beware.

Action Diary

JANUARY

30 National Demo at Shamrock Farm, Monkey Unit. Contact 07020 936 956.

FEBRUARY

2 Stonehenge Campaign Open Meeting 99 Torriano Avenue, London NWS 7pm onwards.

3 Debate on GM food as part of Oxford festival of Science and Innovation. Oxford Town Hall. Contact Oxford 728953.

3 International day of Solidarity actions with the U'wa people. Target Fidelity Investments; Rally at the Colombian Embassies. www.amazonwatch.org and www.moles.org

5 Demo Against the war in Chechnya. Meet 12pm, Tothill Street (behind Westminster Central Hall, Tubes: Westminster, St James's Park).

11-13 TP2000 action weekend at Coulport. Contact 01324 880744.

12 Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty National Demo. Contact 0121 623 6460.

13 Day of action in memory of Mike Hill killed by Cheshire Hunt. Contact HSA 01273 622827.

14 Trident Ploughshares blockade of Faslane. Contact Scottish CND 01414231222. www.endscot.dial.pipex.com or www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

18-20 The Land is Ours Winter Gathering - preparation meeting for summer 2000. Contact 01865 722016. tlto.demon.co.uk, <http://www.oneworld.org/tlto>

26 National Day of Action against Natwest Bank. Contact local Animal Rights group.

MARCH

1-8 International Week of Action for the Abolition of nuclear weapons. Contact CND 0171 700 2393.

4-5 Hebden Bridge: CAAT. Residential National Forum against arms exports. Contact CAAT 020-7281 0279.

Prisoners

Ceejay McBride DC8504. Bittern Unit HMYOI Feltham, Bedford Rd, Feltham, M'sex TW13 4ND. Offence relating to J18. Andrew Warley EC6735. HMP Birmingham, Winslow Green Rd, Birmingham, B18 4AS.

Bill Dale EC6733. HMP Birmingham. Guy Rees EC6734. HMP Birmingham. Adam Marshall ER4790. WOI&RC Brinsford, New Rd, Featherstone, Wolverhampton WV10 7PY.

The above 4 were all sentenced for violent disorder at Hellgrove.

Nuke-Stoppi

Top secret military convoys carrying nuclear warheads travel regularly up and down the country - between the bomb factory at Burghfield in Berkshire and Trident nuclear bases in Scotland and RAF bases in East Anglia. No radiation warning symbols are carried and neither the public nor local authorities are warned of their movements.

The warheads in the lorries contain plutonium and other deadly radioactive materials. In a serious accident, a radioactive plume could spread for miles, poisoning a huge area for thousands of years.

Nuclear warhead convoys have already been involved in many road accidents and breakdowns. This crazy means of transporting the nuclear warheads only increases the suicidal danger of nuclear weapons.

There is a nation-wide network called Nukewatch, which monitors the convoys, informs the public, local authorities and media of their movements and campaigns against them. They can provide videos of the convoy, excellent free leaflets and free information packs. You can also phone the contact closest to you, asking to be informed when the convoy is on its way.

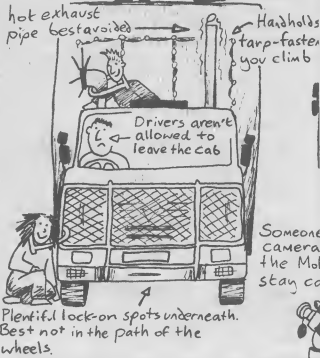
Since the convoys began, small groups of local people have been taking direct action to resist this nuclear menace. They put their bodies in the way of the convoys and hinder their movements. One of the major reasons why American cruise missiles were removed from Britain in the 1980's was because of ordinary people persistently hindering their movement in this way.

How a Convoy is Blocked

First of all, a suitable place is chosen, where the convoy is going slow enough to stop safely. This can be roadworks, a T-junction, a very steep hill or a roundabout.

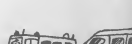
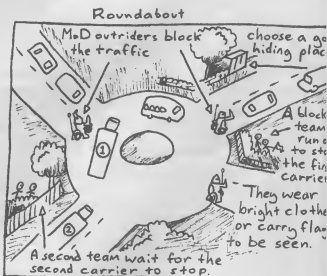


A choice is then made whether to jump on the convoy at the last minute, or to show oneself clearly on the road well in advance. The second choice is safer, it can be just as effective at delaying the convoy. Even if the nuke-stoppers are 'caught' long before the convoy arrives, the time it takes the police to call out the police to try and prevent the convoy being stopped can be just as long as if it had been actively blocked! The publicity and embarrassment caused to the MoD is also equal, and if there are enough nuke-stoppers, then it is still possible to block the convoy even once it's fore-warned.



Safety :

1. Beware of Traffic.
2. Be very visible to the driver of the vehicle.
3. Don't try and get on the convoy until it is completely stop
4. DON'T ENDANGER THE VEHICLE IN ANY WAY. Tyres would not be a good idea - these convoys are dangerous without any interference.



Front Stand-Off Escort

RAF Police Motor-Cyclist

Front Escort

Spare Tractor Unit

2-5 Load Carriers

Fire Truck

Rear Escort

Nuke-Stopping "How and Why"

ing nuclear warheads travel between the bomb factory and nuclear bases in Scotland. Radiation warning symbols for local authorities are

pollutonium and other radioactive accident, a radioactive area for

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led Nukewatch, which public, local authorities and signs against them. They sell free leaflets and free the contact closest to the convoy is on its way.

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How a Convoy is Un-blocked

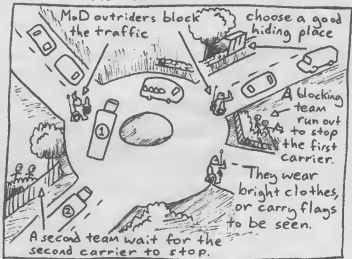
The Ministry of Defence (MoD) police who have the power to arrest you, although they do not and prefer to get the local constabulary to do it. They have that power because the convoy is moving) military land! Nukestoppers can be arrested if they obstruct the Highway. If they graffiti then they could also be charged with criminal damage. Normally penalties tend to be small, and people locked-on or personally obstructing the convoy are arrested. It should be noted, however, that one who recently found guilty of obstruction just because s/he was associated with other people stopping the convoy. Possible defences is available from Nukewatch.

To get you down from the top of the carrier, or off, the local fire brigade might be called to operate ladders or cruppers or ladders. In Scotland, where it gets stop time, nuke-stoppers have been simply dropped off the carrier. Although the police often tell the nuke-stoppers that injury incurred is their own responsibility, the police 'due care' in removing people.

Safety:

1. Beware of Traffic.
2. Be very visible to the driver of the vehicle.
3. Don't try and get on the convoy until it is completely stopped.
4. DON'T ENDANGER THE VEHICLE IN ANY WAY. Nails in the tyres would not be a good idea - these convoys are dangerous enough without any interference.

Roundabout



Nukewatch, 22 Edmund St, Bradford, BD5

Contact:

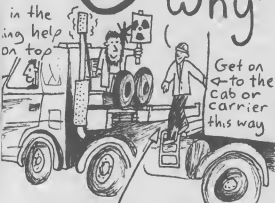
www.cndsot.dial.pipex.com
www.gn.apc.org/pmhpc/convoys
www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks/ynconv.htm
 02380 554434 (Southern England)
 01274 730795 (North & Midlands)
 01436 679194 (Scotland)

These convoys of nuclear weapons are not connected to nuclear waste trains - contact CND.



Front Escort Spare Tractor Unit 2 - 5 Load Carriers Fire Truck Rear Escort RAF police Motor-cyclists 2 Rear Stand-Off Escort Support Vehicle

ing "How and Why"



Somebody getting in the way of the police gives you time to climb up.

How a Convoy is Un-blocked

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) police who guard the convoy have the power to arrest you, although they don't like doing it and prefer to get the local constabulary to do the job for them. They have that power because the convoy is treated as (moving) military land! Nukestoppers can be arrested for Breach of the Peace or Obstruction of the Highway. If there's been any graffiti then they could also be charged with criminal damage or, if they're really unlucky, with conspiracy to cause criminal damage. Normally penalties tend to be small, and it's just the people locked-on or personally obstructing the convoy who are arrested. It should be noted, however, that one woman was recently found guilty of obstruction just because she was associated with other people stopping the convoy. Advice on possible defences is available from Nukewatch.

To get you down from the top of the carrier, or to lock you off, the local fire brigade might be called to operate the bolt-croppers or ladder. In Scotland, where it gets stopped every time, nuke-stoppers have been simply dropped off the top carrier. Although the police often tell the nuke-stoppers that any injury incurred is their own responsibility, the police must use 'due care' in removing people.

Contact:

Nukewatch, 22 Edmund St, Bradford, BD5 0BH

www.cnds.ot.dial.pipex.com

www.gn.apc.org/pmhpf/convoy

"www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks/ynconv.htm"

02380 554434 (Southern England)

01274 730795 (North & Midlands)

01436 679194 (Scotland)

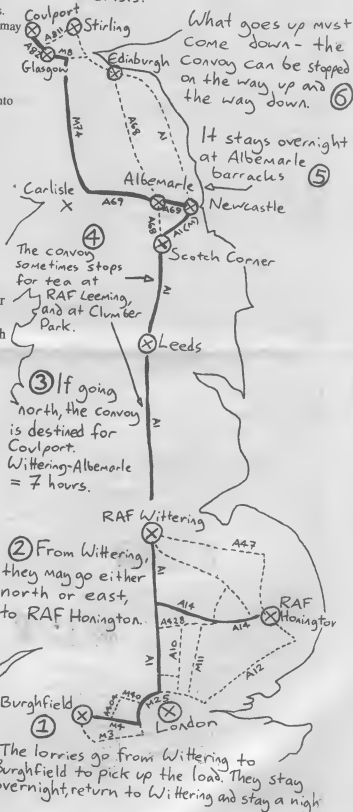
These convoys of nuclear weapons are not connected to the nuclear waste trains - contact CND.

Ideas:

1. Role-play situations before-hand, choose roles and give a proper legal briefing.
2. Think about your audience. Do press releases and phone the local media, take banners for passing drivers and wear costumes.
3. Actions with a theme may get more media coverage.
4. Try splitting into two groups and getting it again further down the road.
5. Two people locking onto each other on-top or underneath are harder to remove.
6. Imagine if a tripod was set up a little way down the road...

THE ROUTE

The Convoy came north 3 times in '97 and 4 in '98. Its frequency may increase soon as the war-heads hit their mid-life crisis.



It's the Flintstones

Edinburgh, Newcastle and other cities have seen the arrival of a group of modern Stone Age protesters. No, not the Flintstones, but a highly visual demo by People Against the Fur Trade.

Activists in costumes reconstituted from actual fur garments came out into the cold to persuade people to put fur back in the Stone Age where it belongs.

The UK has some 12 mink farms left. Many thousands of mink are reared in tiny cages with no access to water (mink are semi-aquatic) before being gassed to death. The pelts mainly go abroad to be made into fur garments, or used as trim. There are also many battery rabbit farms. The fur trade is vast and thriving elsewhere in Europe and in Scandinavia.

Barry Zwirn, fur shop owner in London, is so concerned about opposition to his evil trade that he has injunctioned the area outside his shop against demos. (Write to his solicitors for info - they have to give it and it costs him. Kingsley Napley, Knights Quarter, 14 St. Johns Lane, London EC1M 4AJ.)

Naffwest

National days of Action against Natwest Bank are proving effective. (Natwest loaned Huntingdon Life Sciences £24m, who are animal abusers even in the eyes of the law after a TV expose some time ago.) The Royal Bank of Scotland has sold its HLS shares. Bradford Council has released its 8 million shares. Sadly, other companies have acquired shares: Legal & General, Halifax Share Dealing, HSBC, J.Lloyds Private Banking.

However, Natwest staff have received special instructions on dealing with customer inquiries on the Huntingdon issue. They are definitely losing customers.

Monkey Business

Sarah Spencer, Sales Manager of Shamrock Monkey Farm, feels that her home has become 'like a prison.' Isn't that ironic, considering that's what the establishment she works at is for the monkeys destined for vivisection? December and January were busy months for the Save the Shamrock monkeys campaign, with demos and personalized attention for Shamrock employees. (Addresses available.) Regular demos at the farm, Small Dole, Sussex. Contact 07020 936 956.

Badger Cull Sabs

On 22 Jan 6 people were arrested for criminal damage and later re-arrested for conspiracy to cause criminal damage with regard to trashing badger traps in Herefordshire. On a brighter note another 20 traps were located and destroyed the same day, bringing the total number of destroyed traps to 124 in 3 days. It is very satisfying to know that each trap destroyed means another life saved and with more help even more lives could be saved.

BIG UP YA, BRANDENBURG

On 24th January, the direct action group Solidarios con Itoitz (Basque Country) did an action on the Brandenburg gate in Berlin - against the destructive Itoitz dam project in the Basque Country and for criticising the penalty of 5 years of prison that 8 of their comrades got for another peaceful action. Seven activists attempted to climb the roof of the building. A few seconds later the first policemen arrived and got on the top roof of Brandenburg Gate before the activists could get there. 3 activists locked their throats to iron bars. Two others climbed down some ropes and hung there till the finish of the action. A massive banner showing the Itoitz dam and the text SOS ITOITZ was hung in the front of the building. Police closed the whole area, took the names of some of the more than 100 supporting people on the street and told the people to go away. 7 activists were arrested. Solidarios@ythis.zzn.com

Betuweline Eviction alert!

The Arnhem judge has decided that the GroenFront! squatters in the Betuwevalley, Netherlands, had to be evicted. Eviction could commence as soon as Thursday 25th Jan. An anonymous source from within the police says to expect about 900 riotceps. This would be about as much as in 1997 with the first eviction of the GroenFront! camp near Ruigoord, Amsterdam. That took more than two days. Then there was one site, now there are eight squats at three sites...

<http://www.antenna.nl/nvda/groenfront>.

The Editors of the Earth First! Action Update do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.

Nine Ladies in trouble!

A new camp has been set up to defend Stanton moor in the Derbyshire part of the peak district. Stancliffe Stone have been granted permission to quarry 35 acres of woodland and meadows around the Nine Ladies stone circle on Stanton Moor. The quarry will destroy wildlife habitats including bat roosts, badger setts and rare plants, as well as threatening the water table, increasing lorry traffic and causing noise and pollution. Planning permission was granted in 1952 and it would never be approved if it went up for planning now. The park authorities are trying to fight it, and have imposed a stop order on Stancliffe Stone for the moment, but as experience tells us, this might not stop it, and Stancliffe Stone can appeal against any guidelines given to them. The protest camp has just been set up so they need more people, equipment and any other help you can offer. The camp has good local support, especially since the quarry company has been threatening villagers with violence, including a local shop for having a stop the quarry petition.

Get the train to Matlock, then the Wensley/Winster/Bakewell bus to Stanton Peak (nearest village to the Nine Ladies) or tel: 07974049369 or 07977748436. Website <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies/>

Glen of the Dowses

Since the summer of 1997, there has been a permanent camp at Glen of the Dowses nature reserve to thwart the latest road scheme of Wicklow County Council. On December 7th workers felled about fifty trees - a beautiful ash grove at the entrance to the car park - before determined activists forced them to back off. Tree houses were occupied, lock-ons activated, tunnels shut from the inside. By nightfall more than sixty activists were in the Glen, prepared to stay. Every morning brought the possibility of further felling. On Friday December 10th, the Council's contract workers once again attempted to fell trees. This time they only managed to cut 3 before the activists presence made them back off. A legal defence meanwhile failed and the government declared the Glen closed to public. A gathering on 2nd January and the public generally defied the ban.

Okasional Café

The Okasional Café no. 6, Manchester, closed after two months. The café got off to a slow start, with 'shock horror' negotiations with the owner. Through a mix of self-interest and being a Kurdish Communist who "agrees with our ideals", he gave it to us for the two months we asked for, and possibly longer. The café hosted a mix of low-key parties, workshops, discussions & meetings, displays, art exhibitions, music, movies, and of course the usual food and teas by donation and was also supported by @OK pirate radio. Just wait and see where they resurface next...

COW ATTACK!

BOCM Pauls, a company which manufactures more animal feed than any other company in the UK and uses GM ingredients in most of its products, was besieged by cows. The company's cattle feed mill at Chilton Industrial Estate, County Durham was visited on 14th December by a herd of cows, three of whom scaled two large grain silos and suspended a banner with the words "NO GM Animal Feeds".

After 15 minutes of being on the site an irate security guard marched over to the group and forcibly removed a placard from an unsuspecting cow before destroying it and calling the police. Having decided to leave, the herd found themselves unable to get out of the gates which had been padlocked. The police arrived and there was some confusion when the cows claimed to have shut the factory down. However the gates were quickly unlocked by security guards (the protesters have decided not to press charges for false imprisonment) and the animals have returned to their organic pastures green. Contact: TAPP

4000 - STRONG NARMADA

Non-violent protesters of the NBA (Narmada Bachao Andolan, a more-than-decade long mass movement against destructive development and displacement in the Narmada River Valley, India) converged on the Maheshwar dam (one part of the Narmada dam system) and illegally occupied the dam site. About 4000 took over the site, while 1500 were eventually arrested by the police who responded by attacking some demonstrators. The protests show no sign of ending, with promises to disrupt Bill Clinton's anticipated visit to India in March. Other adivasi activists are also currently engaged in a six-month long procession ("padyatra") from one end of Madhya Pradesh to the other in order to highlight the ever-hastening process of land displacement in the name of globalization. NarmadaUK@yahoo.com

FLYING PIES

In Santa Cruz at 8 PM on December 14th, Dr. Patrick More, the co-founder of Greenpeace and current industry apologist was awarded a pie by the Santa Cruz Biotic Baking Brigade.

Dr. Moore sold his soul to the timber industry a long time ago. He now represents the British Columbia Forest Alliance, an industry front group. He is using his status as co-founder of Greenpeace to encourage unsustainable logging practices in line with the timber industry and the WTO's free trade agenda, which prioritises profits at the expense of the environment and workers.

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Calling all cold and miserable activists to the tropical island of Vieques.

A Puerto Rican municipality, Vieques is located in the Caribbean Sea seven miles east of Puerto Rico. In 1942, the United States Armed Forces evicted almost half of Vieques' residents in order to use the island for military training, and it presently occupies about 70% of the land.

For decades, the people of Vieques have been terrorized by the use of live bombs and ammunition during the Navy's training exercises. In April, two of these bombs caused the death of a civilian and injured four others. The Navy has bombed Vieques with napalm and radioactive material. The cancer rate on Vieques is twice that of the rest of Puerto Rico.

Since April, hundreds of Puerto Rican activists have been staging a camp on U.S. Navy land in Vieques. They demand an immediate cease-fire of practice bombings that have destroyed a great part of the island's ecology. These peaceful protesters need your help now!

The United States is trying to keep Vieques a secret. You can help them break this silence and show the world the plight of the forgotten people of Vieques.

If you might be interested in forming a group or organising a protest outside the US embassy in London, contact: support@eco-action.org

Or you could travel to the island, and contribute to the construction of "un pueblo", a town or village, in the campsite areas. If Clinton follows through with his plan to authorise bombing to resume in March this year, they will have to destroy a town or village in order to do so. ¡Paz para Vieques!
Info from: ivan67@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.viequeslibre.org>

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